Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing system for processing an input image containing an object image [[of]] with a predetermined pattern which may have been magnified,

said image processing system comprising:

~~one or more~~ characteristic quantity computing ~~means for computing one or more~~ unit that computes a plurality of characteristic quantities of said object image, wherein said plurality of characteristic quantities include pixel information representing the predetermined pattern of said object image;

a plurality of magnification estimating ~~means for estimating~~ units that estimate a plurality of magnification levels on the basis of said ~~one or more~~ plurality of characteristic quantities computed by and output from said ~~one or more~~ characteristic quantity computing [[means]] unit; and

judging ~~means for judging~~ unit that judges whether or not said object image is present in said input image, on the basis of whether or not the plurality of magnification levels estimated by said plurality of magnification estimating [[means]] units are coincident with one another.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image processing system according to claim 1, wherein

said plurality of magnification estimating [[means]] units estimate said plurality of magnification levels in consideration of an error or errors of said ~~one or more~~ plurality of characteristic quantities computed by said ~~one or more~~ characteristic quantity computing [[means]] unit.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image processing system according to claim 1, wherein

said judging [[means]] unit synthetically judges whether or not said object image is present in said input image in consideration with an error or errors of said plurality of magnification levels estimated by said plurality of magnification estimating [[means]] units.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image processing system according to claim 1, wherein

said judging [[means]] unit judges whether or not said object image is present in said input image, from said ~~one or more~~ plurality of characteristic quantities computed by said ~~one or more~~ characteristic quantity computing [[means]] unit and said plurality of magnification levels estimated by said plurality of magnification estimating [[means]] units.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image processing system according to claim 1, wherein

said judging [[means]] unit judges whether or not said object image is present in said input image, from said ~~one or more~~ plurality of characteristic quantities computed by said ~~one or more~~ characteristic quantity computing [[means]] unit and an error or errors of said plurality of magnification levels estimated by said plurality of magnification estimating [[means]] units.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

specific color extracting ~~means for extracting~~ unit that extracts a specific color from said input image, said specific color extracting [[means]] unit being located at a pre-stage of said characteristic quantity computing [[means]] unit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The image processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

resolution converting ~~means for converting~~ unit that converts a resolution of said input image into another resolution, said resolution converting [[means]] unit being located at a pre-stage of said characteristic quantity computing [[means]] unit.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The image processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

window processing ~~means for sequentially cutting~~ unit that sequentially cuts predetermined image areas out of said input image, said window processing [[means]] unit being located at a pre-stage of said characteristic quantity computing [[means]] unit.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of processing an input image containing an object image [[of]] with a predetermined ~~patter~~ pattern which may have been magnified,

said image processing method comprising the steps of:

~~computing means for~~ computing ~~one or more~~ a plurality of characteristic quantities of said object image, wherein said plurality of characteristic quantities include pixel information representing the predetermined pattern of said object image;

estimating a plurality of magnification levels on the basis of said ~~one or more~~ plurality of characteristic quantities computed by said characteristic quantity computing step; and

judging whether or not said object image is presented in said input image, on the basis of whether or not the plurality of magnification levels estimated by said ~~plurality of~~ magnification estimating ~~means~~ step are coincident with one another.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein,

said magnification estimating step estimating said plurality of magnification levels in consideration of an error or errors of said ~~one or more~~ <u>plurality of</u> characteristic quantities computed by said characteristic quantity computing step.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein

said judging step synthetically judges whether or not said object image is present in said input image, in consideration of an error or errors of said plurality of magnification levels estimated by said magnification estimating step.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein

said judging step judges whether or not said object image is present in said input image, from said ~~one or more~~ <u>plurality of</u> characteristic quantities computed by said characteristic quantity computing step and said plurality of magnification levels estimated by said magnification estimating step.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein

said judging step synthetically judges whether or not said object image is present in said input image, in consideration of said ~~one or more~~ plurality of characteristic quantities computed by said characteristic quantity computing step and said plurality of magnification levels estimated by said magnification estimating step.

Claim 16 (Original): The image processing method according to claim 10, further comprising:

a step for extracting a specific color from said input image, said specific color extracting step being performed before said characteristic quantity computing step is performed.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The image processing method according to any of claims 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15, further comprising:

a resolution converting step for converting a resolution of said input image into another resolution, said resolution converting step being performed before said characteristic quantity computing step is performed.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The image processing method according to claim 10, further comprising:

a window processing step for sequentially cutting predetermined image areas out of said input image, said window processing step being performed before said characteristic quantity computing step is performed.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

interface means for receiving unit that receives an image which may have been magnified, from an external device;

image forming means for forming unit that forms an image on the basis of the image data received by said interface [[means]] unit,

recognizing means for judging unit that judges whether or not an object image is present in said input image; and

control means for controlling unit that controls an overall of said image forming apparatus, when said recognizing [[means]] unit judges that said object image is contained in said image data received by said interface [[means]] unit, said control [[means]] unit making image data invalid; wherein

said recognizing [[means]] unit includes said image processing system defined in claim 1.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein

said control [[means]] unit performs said image invalidating process such that said control [[means]] unit causes said image forming [[means]] unit to form an image on the bases of predetermined image data and the image data received by said interface [[means]] unit.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein

said control [[means]] unit performs said image invalidating process such that said control [[means]] unit inhibits the formation of said received image data.

Claim 22 (New): The image processing system according to claim 1, wherein said pixel information includes ON pixel information and ON/OFF inverse information.

Claim 23 (New): The image processing system according to claim 22, wherein said ON pixel information includes the number of ON pixels, and said ON/OFF inverse information includes ON and OFF inverse pixels.

Claim 24 (New): An image processing system for processing an input image containing an object image with a predetermined pattern which may have been magnified,

said image processing system comprising:

characteristic quantity computing unit that computes a plurality of characteristic

quantities of said object image, wherein said plurality of characteristic quantities include pixel

information representing the predetermined pattern of said object image; and

a plurality of magnification estimating units that estimate a plurality of magnification

levels on the basis of said plurality of characteristic quantities computed by and output from said

characteristic quantity computing unit.